

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 11 are pending, claim 1 having been amended above and claims 3 - 11 having been added above.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) (Note - it is believed that the Examiner intended the grounds of rejection to be under section 102(e) instead of under section 102(b)) as being anticipated by Levy (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,093). Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of claim 1 having been amended above. As amended, claim 1 is no longer anticipated by Levy, since details of the optical system have been recited that pertain to Embodiment 2 of the invention (which embodiment is illustrated in applicant's Fig. 3). Support for the limitations added to claim 1 lies at page 6, lines 1 - 14, of the specification as filed.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levy (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,093) in view of Bietry et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,604,639). Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of claim 1 having been amended above. As amended, claim 1 is no longer anticipated by Levy, and thus the combination of Levy with Bietry et al. no longer makes claim 2 unpatentable.

Claims 3 - 11 have been added in order to provide additional claim scope gradation. Support for the limitations added in claims 3 - 11 can be found at page 6, lines 1 - 14, of the specification as filed.


Having amended the Title to be more descriptive (as required by the Examiner at page 2 of the Office Action), having amended claim 1 so that it is no longer anticipated by Levy (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,093) and so that the combination of Levy and Bietry et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,604,639) no longer makes claim 2 unpatentable, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn. Furthermore, it is respectfully requested that newly added claims 3 - 11 be examined and, unless more pertinent prior art is found, an early Notice of Allowability be provided.

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Patent

Although no fee is believed to be due, please charge any required fee(s) to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2509.

Respectfully submitted,

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